

THE COMMISSION FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR
MINUTES
March 18th, 2014

Present

Jasper Smith, Chair
Esmeralda Reyes, Vice-Chair
Megha Shyam
Joseph Orosco
Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia

Council Liaison

Bruce Sorte, Ward 7

Absent

Luis Rosa
Roni Sue
Marna Claywoman

Visitors

None

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Action Recommendation
I. Approve minutes	February minutes approved with the correction that Bruce Sorte was present.
II. Discussion of Charge	See discussion record below
III. Event Update	Harvest of Empire will be shown April 4 th at 7 PM at the Corvallis-Benton County Library.
IV. Other business	Discussed request from Corvallis Police Department to review training materials. Commission agreed to review materials for CPD.
V.	
VI.	

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

Discussed and shared recommendations in from the Public Participation Task Force. The commission agreed that we have a unique mission that should continue to have its own commission and our work could not be adequately subsumed under a broader diversity board. The goal should be to increase diversity on all the boards and commissions not just to have a diversity board. See discussion below.

Accomplishments in the past year:

- Presentation from Teryl Ross on diversity trends and issues in Corvallis.
- Completed kiosks for MLK Park.
- Put up posters in kiosk as temporary display until permanent display can be implemented.
- Community discussion on progress towards Dr. King's dream 50 years after the "I Have a Dream" speech.
- Successful essay contest with a large number of applicants and four scholarship recipients.
- Well-attended MLK holiday event with John Hunter and World Peace Game film.

- Partnered with OSU on our main event.
- Made connections with NAACP and Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center.
- Screening of Harvest of Empire upcoming.
- Community picnic and recognition of community diversity groups planned for the summer.

Discussion of possible ideas related to our charge (further discussion for April meeting):

- Coordinate with city and community groups.
- Develop MLK Park as a resource for promoting diversity and goals of Dr. King.
- Promote inclusion of diverse people and communities within Corvallis.
- Educate around diversity, economic justice, social justice, and nonviolence.
- Pursue nonviolent solutions to economic and social injustices in Corvallis.
- Help overcome racism, violence, and poverty in Corvallis.
- Use the MLK holiday as an opportunity for education and gathering the community.
- Work with community groups such as NAACP and CLUBC to facilitate and advocate for their perspectives with the city.
- Advise city on impacts of decisions on communities.
- Issue a diversity report on the status of issues in Corvallis and make recommendations for improvement.
- Hold a diversity summit to convene community groups and individuals to assess issues and make recommendations.
- Gather and present information
- Partner with OSU around MLK celebration events.
- Serve to convene, facilitate, and educate around nonviolent solutions to social and economic challenges.
- Provide an annual report to the city on our activities.
- Provide mini-grants to community groups.
- Share information among city and community groups.
- Possible connections with City Club of Corvallis, churches, OSU Office of Civic Engagement.
- Review city policies and procedures for impacts on communities.
- Help prepare city for the changing demographics of the future.

Other issues to discuss:

- We discussed what might be the appropriate connection point with the city. We are currently under Human Resources and though there is personnel experience on the commission, it is unclear if this is the best place for the commission and its expertise has not been called upon. It might make sense to have the Mayor or City Manager's office as the connection point. The current structure does not seem to optimize the contributions the commission can make to the city.
- We discussed that to pursue some of the initiatives that could be within our charge, that more time might need to be committed to commission business. Commissioners already put in time outside of commission meetings for events and other activities, but this might increase and meeting time might also need to increase.
- We discussed confusion over our name. We are sometimes the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and sometimes the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission. We discussed a desire to clarify and perhaps simplify our name. We

discussed a desire to honor the role of Coretta Scott King as well as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the work and the legacy that is honored. Coretta Scott King did a great deal of work alongside Dr. King and is primarily responsible for creating the King legacy. We discussed some variation of The King Legacy Commission and a possible name change.

- If the Public Participation Task Force's recommendations are accepted, we would need to figure out our relationship to some broader Diversity Board that may cover some but not all the scope of our work.